



Fire Department

William Wentlandt
Chief
Mark A. Sain
Assistant Chief

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

January 3, 2006

Christmas Tree Fires

According to the National Christmas Tree Association around 33 million natural Christmas trees are sold every year. That is nearly enough for one-third of all homes in the United States have a live tree. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has found that one-third of the live trees in homes are not properly cared for, they are dried out or have faulty lights on them. The USFA also found in a study, from 1996 to 1998 the period between December 15 and January 1 there were an average of 7.7 tree fires per day in the United States.

Fire safety issues that should be identified with live trees are:

- Keep well watered
- Check all lights and cords for condition
- Do not overload outlets
- Do not leave the lights on when no one is home or everyone is sleeping
- Keep all direct flames away from tree
- Do not block doorways with trees
- Check and clean your smoke detectors and replace the batteries if needed
- Remove your tree as soon as possible after the holidays

If any media outlet would like assist the department and have an interview with a member of the department relating to these issues or any other fire safety issues please feel free to call Lieutenant Brian O 'Connor at (414)-286-8968.